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Delta Stewardship Council
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Subject: Comments on Proposed EIR for Changes to the Delta Plan

As a resident on the water of the South Delta, I am very concerned about the Delta Stewardship Council and the delicate job they have to assure the two co-equal goals of restoring the Sacramento / San Joaquin Delta and providing a reliable water supply for the State. I believe the intent of the Council to incorporate the Water Fix twin massive tunnels ignores the equal goal of restoring the Delta. The Water Fix EIR, the DWR, and the Delta Plan clearly do not understand and properly address recreation in the Delta and the need for fresh water to restore the largest estuary in the western Western Hemisphere. Recreation in the Delta is a multi-million dollar business, hosting bass fishing tournaments, wakeboarding and waterski tournaments, and poker runs that attract boaters from throughout the West. We residents have a clear understanding of what reduced water flows in the South Delta (caused by the Twin Tunnels) will do to recreation and property values. The four year drought is a great simulator for the impact the tunnels will create, with invasive weeds choking our waterways to the point where navigation is impossible, with toxic algae preventing us and our dogs from swimming or waterskiing in the Delta. Following are my specific comments:

- The Delta Plan and Water Fix are being rushed through without adequate provision for public comment / input. Costs and financing still are not addressed.
- The Delta Stewardship Council is not defending the residents of the Delta against Corporate Agriculture. You need to step up and be real stewards of the Delta for future generations of Californians.
- We need the Delta Stewardship Council to take a Big Picture approach to the water needs of California. Why, for example, is more acreage being planted in permanent crops, even during our drought years? We need caps on irrigated farmland to match the limited water resources of this state.
- Minimum water flows to restore the Delta need to be incorporated into the Delta Plan as required by the State Legislature, even if it is the “wrong answer”. This should include minimum south Delta water flows.
- Alternatives to the Twin Tunnel solution need to be addressed, including no tunnels or gates.
 - These alternatives need to include the honest estimated expense and benefit of each alternative. Any viable alternatives need to prove that the 50 year benefits far exceed the 50 year cost (net positive payback). Dr. Michaels from the University of the Pacific has shown that the Water Fix does not meet that requirement. Furthermore, sources of funding should

be identified. If increased taxes are required, the voting public should be provided the right to approved the increased taxes.

- Increased water storage (including underground aquifers) and desalination need to be included alternatives. Surplus flows during wet years need to be captured.
- Each alternative needs to demonstrate less reliance on the Delta as a source of water for the State.
- The expense of each alternative needs to include mitigation for impacts during construction, such as reimbursing marinas, property owners, and users of the Delta for lost use during construction.
- Alternative 9 in the Water Fix would be devastating to Delta Recreation, and should include the impact of reimbursing homeowners for lost property values and relocation to more hospitable venues. Furthermore, it has been shown (U.S. EPA) that gates harm fish, not the other way around.
- Eleven years of conveyance construction are going to be miserable for Delta residents. Any necessary construction should be located as far from recreation sites, population centers, and historic places as possible.

In summary, the Delta Stewardship Council needs to take a Big Picture approach to California's water needs and sources. Limits need to be placed on agriculture, especially permanent crops. The DSC are our stewards to protect, restore, and preserve the Delta for current and future generations. Don't be the Joni Mitchel song where your "paved paradise and put up a parking lot".

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